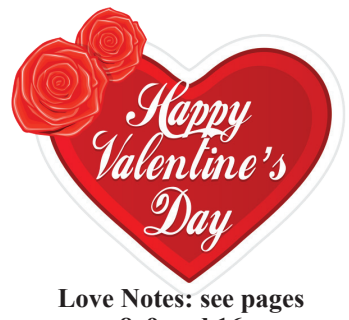
GREENBELT
News Review
An Independent Newspaper



Love Notes: see pages
8, 9 and 16

VOL. 88, No. 12 | 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887 | FEBRUARY 13, 2025

Greenbelters Working with USAID Abroad Prepare to Return Home

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

As uncertainty at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) sends ripples through Greenbelt, one family shares how the political and legal battles in Washington, D.C. are impacting their work and lives, thousands of miles from home.



PHOTO BY JASON ANDREW

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Monday, February 3

Just as the USAID workers we spoke with last week requested we withhold their names due to fear of reprisal, this family also requested we not use their names, position or specific geographical posting to avoid being identified.

"Max" works for a company that is a USAID contractor. He's been working with USAID for over two decades and for the last two years he's been in his current location in Asia, posted with his family, which includes a child in elementary school. "The news says two thousand USAID people are ordered home," but "there are more than that, because [there are people] like us, and then I think that many people do not really know what that means … there are families," said Max.

Speaking with the News Review on Sunday he said, "We don't know anything. That's, I think, the main concern … the absence of any guidance." He said he thinks his company has decided to repatriate his family by the end of the month but he has also been told, "We will send you further guidance." He continued, "The entire communication with USAID has basically broken down. They're in the same boat. It's not that they don't want to provide any guidance but they just can't. … They don't have any idea what's going on, what they're supposed to do."

Stop Work Order

On January 25, Max and his company received a stop work order. It came on a Saturday evening. Stop work orders are not common, but not entirely unusual, he says. He describes them as a tool to intervene. "Usually, however, you get a stop work order, discuss terms and solve an issue, he says. Yet, in this case there's no ability to discuss and no guidance. The stop work order came in the middle of trainings

See **USAID,** page 13

Five County Executive Candidates United In Opposition to Maglev

by Diya Shah and Ryan Colasanti



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

A Stop the MAGLEV Train sign in a Greenbelt yard, Tuesday, February 11

The Greenbelt News Review asked the 12 candidates running for the position of Prince George's County Executive to share their stance on the maglev project, a proposed high-speed rail line that would connect Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. The proposed project has been met with strong resistance from Greenbelt residents, who raise significant environmental and financial concerns. With this in mind, we asked the county executive candidates: "How do you plan to address these concerns, and what is your stance on the project?" Six candidates responded, although Jolene Ivey subsequently dropped out of the race.

All who responded expressed opposition to the project, though their reasons and proposed approaches varied. Some said they

See **MAGLEV,** page 10

Valentine Vignette

Marc and Diane Siegel

by Erica Johns

We heard Marc and Diane's story first from Marc. He remembered living in a Springhill Lake apartment while attending the University of Maryland and meeting Diane Douglas, who lived in an apartment downstairs from his and worked at Beltway Plaza. They dated a while before breaking up. "Then my dad, who liked her, brought her to my graduation," said Marc. "Other than that I don't think we would have met up again. We ended up getting married."

Later we asked Diane for her side of the story.



PHOTO COURTESY MARC AND DIANE SIEGEL

Marc and Diane Siegel volunteer together at the Labor Day Festival.

"I moved into Springhill Lake [from Lanham] when I was about 18. I was washing my car one day and Marc moved in. I immediately called my girlfriend and said, 'A cute boy just moved into my building.'

"Then I found a note on my car, saying I was cute, and later, I found out it was he AND his roommate who put the note on the car, not just Marc. And one day he was outside playing his guitar. I can't remember if I went up to him or if he said something first, and we went and got ice cream."

We asked Diane what she remembered about breaking up and getting back together.

"His sister, Sandy, invited me to her wedding because I'd gotten friendly with his family. I went with him as his date to her wedding. We kept dating, and he moved to a GHI and I moved to

See **VIGNETTE,** page 12

Council Approves Matching Funds For Repair of Indoor Pool Deck

by Diane Oberg

At its January 27 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council approved contracts to repair the indoor pool, modified and deferred proposed ethics legislation until the next meeting, agreed to support a coalition seeking to improve emergency services and took positions on several pieces of proposed state legislation.

Indoor Pool

Council approved legislation to transfer $1.7 million from the rainy-day fund to the Capital Projects Fund to cover urgently needed structural repairs to the indoor pool deck. City Manager Josué Salmerón said that the city has obtained $1.5 million in Program Open Space funds to cover most of the cost of the repairs. The city will need to provide matching funds to cover the remaining cost.

Open Space funding is provided on a reimbursement basis; that is, the city must first pay for the repairs, then submit requests for reimbursement. Salmerón said that the city would not need to wait until the project was complete before submitting reimbursement requests.

Council then approved contracts with C. A. Lindman, Inc. for $1.4 million to serve as general contractor and with CPJ for $111,700 for engineering quality assurance. Salmerón said that

See **COUNCIL,** page 10

What Goes On

Monday, February 17, Presidents Day, All City Offices Closed

Wednesday, February 19, 7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Charter Review Taskforce and Advisory Board/Committee Interviews (virtual)

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY JONES

Snow returns to Greenbelt. The Public Works crew shovels Roosevelt Center during the February 11 snow storm.

Letters to the Editor

Shout Out To the GNR Team

Kudos to all the contributors to the News Review! The articles in this past year have been outstanding: interesting, in depth and well written. I just read the articles about StopFinder and it's mind boggling.

Well done, everyone. I look forward to the issue every week.

Valentina Aquila

USAID Article

I have been a resident for over 25 years. Your recent article on the USAID firings with interviews with actual fellow residents put a face to this disgrace.

As MLK said "injustice to one is injustice for all."

We are a community and need to know how this act affects us all.

Rick Arief

USAID Article On the Other Hand

The article in last week's News Review on Greenbelt's view of USAID failed to mention any of the outlandish USAID programs funded by US taxpayers while the U.S. is running an unsustainable $36 trillion deficit. Government wasteful spending was one of the issues that got the Trump – Vance administration elected: in addition to immigration and border security, inflation and the economy, domestic energy independence and push back on DEI and wokeism.

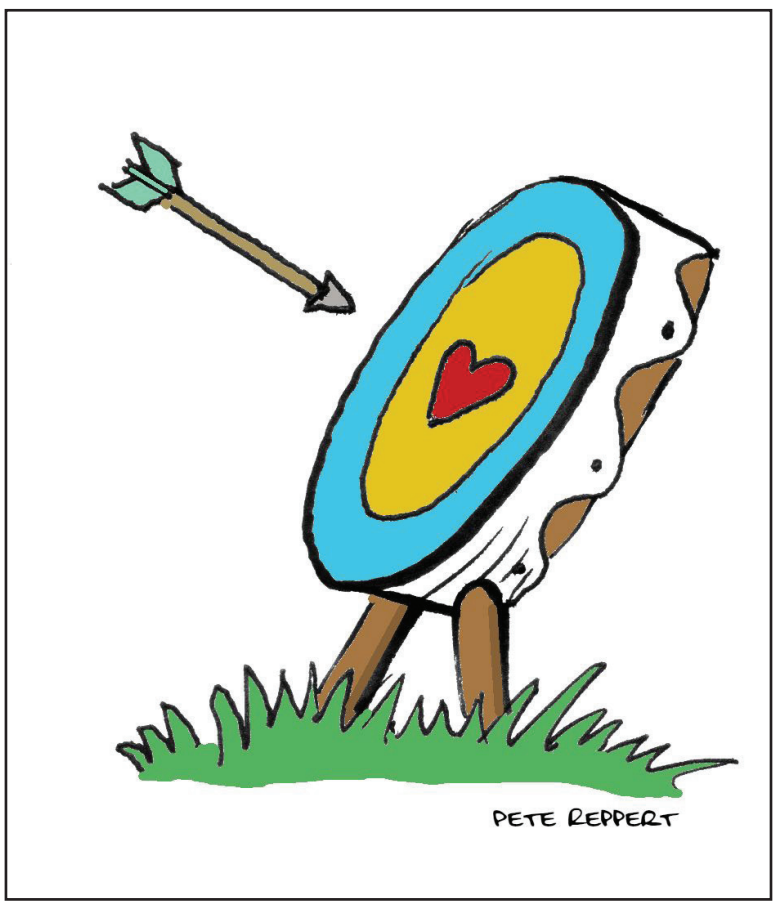
It was uncovered that $400 million was spent on: Condoms for Palestine; LGBTQ projects in Guatemala, Ecuador, Uganda, Colombia; a DEI musical in Ireland; a DEI project for Serbian companies; an Iraqi Sesame Street project; promote tourism in Egypt and Turkey; a transgender comic book for Peru; $2 million granted to the BBC to bolster media ties with Libya; $8 million for instructing Sri Lankan journalists how to avoid using binary-gender language. This being a partial list, other USAID projects have little to do with improving the lives or security of Americans or Greenbelters.

I'm wondering how those impacted by fires in California, and flooding and tornadoes in the south and midwest feel when they are told there is a limit to how much aid and funds are available for recovery efforts.

Robert Snyder

Editor's Note: The use of USAID funding for the projects listed by Mr. Snyder has been proven inaccurate by fact checkers. For example, the claim that millions were spent to send condoms to Palestine is false, though USAID did fund health projects in the Gaza province of Mozambique; funding for a DEI musical at a US embassy in Ireland came from the State Department rather than USAID and the State Department also funded a 2022 opera in Colombia that tells the story of a transgender woman; the comic book produced in Peru featured a hero who was gay and was funded through the Fulbright Program, again from the State Department; the funding sent to the BBC went to its international charity, BBC Media Action, whose mission is to bring impartial media and communication to people in need. Other statements are also misleading.

See **LETTERS,** page 4



Happy Valentine's Day!

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

I'm Still Here

Eunice Paiva (Fernanda Torres) investigates her husband Rubens' disappearance while maintaining family stability. Rubens is a former PTB (Brazilian Labor Party) deputy who has gone missing. Said critic Sean Collier of Pittsburgh Magazine, "The film is carried by Torres, who portrays this unimaginable burden with a mix of steely resolve and constant threadbare tension."

Documentary Oscar Shorts

Death by Numbers, directed by Kim A. Snyder; I Am Ready, Warden, directed by Smriti Mundhra; Incident, directed by Bill Morrison; Instruments of a Beating Heart, directed by Ema Ryan Yamazaki; and The Only Girl in the Orchestra, directed by Molly O'Brien

Animated Oscar Shorts

Beautiful Men, directed by Nicolas Keppens; In the Shadow of the Cypress, directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani; Magic Candies, directed by Daisuke Nishio; Wander to Wonder, directed by Nina Gantz; and Yuck! directed by Loïc Espuche

Live Action Oscar Shorts

A Lien, directed by David Cutler-Kreutz and Sam Cutler-Kreutz; Anuja, directed by Adam J. Graves; I'm Not a Robot, directed by Victoria Warmerdam; The Last Ranger, directed by Cindy Lee; and The Man Who Could Not Remain Silent, directed by Nebojša Slijepčević

See **ON SCREEN**, page 11

greenbelt CINEMA

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always $6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults $9, Kids $6,
Senior/Student/Military $8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults $7, Kids $5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
FEBRUARY 14th - 20th

I'm Still Here (PG-13) (2024) (138 mins) Portuguese with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:00 PM
Tues. 7:50 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 1:00 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM

Documentary Oscar Shorts (2025) (165 mins) may not be appropriate for audiences under the age of 14
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 4:30 PM
Mon. 1:30 PM
Wed. 3:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sun. 4:00 PM
Tues. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 4:00 PM

Animated Oscar Shorts (2025) (90 mins) may not be appropriate for audiences under the age of 14
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:30 PM
Sun. 4:00 PM
Thurs. 5:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 8:15 PM
Mon. 5:15 PM
Tues. 5:20 PM
Wed. 3:00 PM

Live Action Oscar Shorts (2025) (104 mins) may not be appropriate for audiences under the age of 14
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 8:00 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 5:30 PM
Thurs. 3:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sun. 7:30 PM
Wed. 7:45 PM

Neon Genesis: The End of Evangelion (R) (1997) (87 mins) Cinema Pop! Japanese with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 1:00 PM

Call Me Dancer (NR) (2023) (84 mins) - Free! Dance workshop 11:00 AM -12:30 PM Post-screening Q&A Sponsored by Mishkan Torah
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 1:30 PM

Storytime on Screen - Free!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

The Six Triple Eight (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2024) (127 mins) Free! Sponsored by Elizabeth Helm-Frazier Post-screening guest speaker
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Wed. 7:00 PM

Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) (2009) (130 mins) Cult Classic Free trivia at 7:00 PM Hosted by @TheScreenBliss
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985
Mary Lou Williamson, Editor
Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

STAFF
Matt Arbach, Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Laura Bonkosky, Jerry Bonnell, Letty Bonnell, Alan Burt, Rasheeda Childress, Maurice Crawford, Deborah Daniel, Deanna Dawson, Christine Doran, Joan Estenson, Anne Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Jon Gardner, Jim Giese, Ian Gleason, Patrick Gleason, Angie Gordon, Carol Griffith, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Erik Hanson, Michael Hartman, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Melanie Iversen, Erica Johns, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Jennifer Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Amina Khalifa, Michael Kusie, Sandra Lange, Amanda Larsen, Linda Lucas, Charlene MacAdams, Marc Manheimer, Anne Marigza, Cathie Meetre, Mary Moien, Diane Oberg, Julie Rapp, Peter Reppert, Joe Robbins, Sandy Rodgers, Ian Blackwell Rogers, Lois Rosado, Richard Roth, Bonnie Schrack, Pat Scully, Bonnie Seaton, René Sewell-Raysor, David Shapiro, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Christopher Stark, Susan Taylor, Beth Terry, Daniel Thies, Nancy Tolzman, Jeff Travis, Mary Lou Williamson, Janice Wolf, Ray Zammuto and Michael Zeliff.

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:
- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: $55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, February 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy, nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 14 de febrero a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

GES Designated For Additional Support

Greenbelt Elementary School has been designated as an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) School by the Maryland State Department of Education. This designation means that the school will receive additional support to develop and implement a plan to address areas in need of improvement.

Greenbelt Elementary families will learn more about the designation and improvement plan in a meeting planned for 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 27 at the school. For more information or questions, call 301-513-5911.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Roosevelt Club Forum

The February 21 program is titled Unpacking Trump: The First 30 Days.

The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club invites the public to a dynamic forum analyzing the first month of Donald Trump's second presidency. Featuring CASA MD and Maryland State Delegate Ashanti Martinez, the event will explore key policies, impacts and what's ahead. Join the discussion on Friday, February 21 at 7 p.m. in the Greenbriar Terrace Room, 7600 Hanover Parkway.

At the Library

All PGCMLS branches will be closed on Sunday, February 16 and Monday, February 17, for the Presidents Day holiday. Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Friday, February 14, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12620696.

Wednesday, February 19, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12620653.

Thursday, February 20, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12620678.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, February 17, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5. The Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with PGCMLS, is offering a free program of stories, songs, and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12615362.

Robotics and Black History

Tuesday, February 18, 4:30 p.m., ages 8 to 12. Explore science, technology, engineering and math. Learn about the achievements of roboticist Ayanna Howard and drop in for hands-on activities using Cubelet Robots! Register at pgcmls.info/event/12621587.

Get Active: Ride and Read

Thursday, February 20, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Get some physical activity while at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on one of the library's stationary bikes with great free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy, and Hoopla to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12622492.

Black History Month Events at the Library

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System is celebrating Black History Month with over 75 free programs and events to give library customers of all ages a lively and engaging experience centered around the heritage and community of Black culture in Prince George's County and beyond. Here is an event happening at the Greenbelt Library.

On Saturday, February 15 at 1 p.m., the Library hosts the Underwater Archaeological Slave Wrecks Project presented by Kamau B. A. Sadiki of Diving with Purpose, in conjunction with the Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee and the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights. Sadiki will discuss the archaeological underwater research of the Slave Wrecks Project of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American Culture and History in partnership with the Izeko Museum of South Africa, George Washington University and Diving with Purpose.

Flower Giveaway

Maryland Christian Fellowship (MCF) Community Church is giving away 500 flowers for Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 13 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the following locations: Greenbelt Co-op, Giant, Safeway and Target. One flower per adult while supplies last. MCF, which meets Sundays at 10 a.m. at the Greenbelt Elementary School, says this is an opportunity to serve the community and demonstrate God's love.

Orchestra to Perform Black History Concert

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will give a free concert at the Community Center on Sunday, February 23 at 3 p.m. The program will feature works by composers from the African diaspora, including Florence Price, Quinn Mason, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges. For more information about the orchestra, visit greenbeltorchestra.org.

Garden Club Meeting For Plot Assignment



The Greenbelt Community Garden Club will host its annual Plot Assignment and Membership Meeting on Tuesday, March 4 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held via Zoom and an email will be sent to returning gardeners with a link to join. Anyone who would like more information about the Garden Club can visit the website at greenbeltgardenclub.com or email the Club President, Ellen Bastio, at gcgcpres@gmail.com.

Contemplative Prayer Group Meets Tuesdays

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This gathering is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation.

The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then some sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, email Patience Robbins at patience.robbins@gmail.com.

Lifeline Offers Health Screenings at Legion

Residents living in and around Greenbelt can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 will host this community event on March 19.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; kidney and thyroid function and more.

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Pre-registration is required. Consultants will work to create a package based on age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit lifelinescreening.com to register.

Concert Band Will Present A Day at the Cinema

On Sunday, March 9, the Greenbelt Concert Band will present A Day at the Cinema, at the American Legion Post 136. The audience can enjoy familiar movie tunes from films incuding Superman, Home Alone, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Star Wars, Harry Potter and more. Costumes are optional but encouraged. The fun begins at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit greenbeltconcertband.org.

Chess Club Meeting February 18

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, February 18, at the Greenbelt Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, go to tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m in your browser and complete the brief form. Direct questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

GATE GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Community-Driven Storytelling

Greenbelt Access Television
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccesstv.org
February Programming: Black History Month

Black American History Month 2025 Events Promo
Jennifer Dudley and Joe Parks, of the Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee, cover all the amazing programs taking place this February for Black American History Month!

City Wide Art Exhibition
An art exhibition, curated by Shaymar Higgs, Executive Director of The Space, will be on display at the New Deal Cafe. On Sunday, February 2nd, the New Deal Cafe will be launching the exhibition and holding a reception. Stay tuned for our coverage of the event!

Utopia Film Festival 2024 Selections
All month on our channel, we will be running a wonderful selection of films from the 2024 Utopia Film Festival that shed light on and celebrate the Black American experience, including: Mon Afrique, Get on the Bus!, Black Hair Love, Just Another Bombing?: This is Donal and Iona's Story, Negro League Baseball Comes to Greenbelt, and Looking Inward: Black History & the Arts.

This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT — FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

NEW DEAL CAFÉ Greenbelt, MD

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight; Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 2/13	FRI 2/14	SAT 2/15	SUN 2/16
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Swampgrass 7 - 9pm Energetic bluegrass and more!	UKULELE LADIES, 3 - 5p VALENTINE'S DAY w/ Marianna Previti SPECIAL HOURS: 7-10pm Award-winning DC jazz vocalist! Inspiring performances.	POETRY OPEN MIC, 1 - 3pm Bad Influence 8-11pm Four-piece band breathes new life and fresh energy into blues and roots music	Grateful Sunday featuring The Brahman Noodles 6 - 8pm Jug Funk with the jamcoustic sounds of the Grateful Dead

MON 2/17	TUES 2/18	WED 2/19	TH 2/20	New Deal Cafe
REEL AND MEAL 7 - 9pm A monthly film series exploring vital social justice issues	NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire 7-9:30pm Sign-ups at 6:30p EXPRESS YOURSELF!	PUB QUIZ 7-9pm Bring your team or join one!	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm The Classic Jam w/ The Low Rent Quartet 6:30 - 9:30pm A new home at the NDC!	PLEASE TIP GENEROUSLY. IT'S THE ONLY PAY BANDS RECEIVE, AND WE WANT THEM TO COME BACK! [MINIMUM: $10]

**Join NDC!* Go to NewDeal Cafe(dot) com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Letters continued from page 2

Pet Waste Station

High paws to Greenbelt Public Works for installing a pet waste bag dispenser station (including a sign to emphasize the responsibility of cleaning up after your pet) at the playground in Boxwood (corner of Lastner and Ivy Lanes), after learning of orphan poop appearing in the neighborhood. Concerned residents contacted city staff requesting a pet waste bag dispenser be installed at this location. Says Gizelle Alvarez, constituent services coordinator, the city is working on installing them citywide in the future. We commend Alvarez' citizen constituent service responsiveness. Thanks to the city for helping make Greenbelt sparkle!

With gratitude,

Robert Goldberg-Strassler, Ex Officio President of the Boxwood Village Civic Association, Li'l Dan Celdran, Pet Parent



PHOTO BY KEVIN CARPENTER-DRISCOLL

Public Works installed this pet waste station at the Boxwood playground.

Repair Café Inspires

On February 1, I was privileged to be a part of the Repair Café at the Makerspace and Tool Library in the Granite Building. I saw the expected broken furniture, malfunctioning appliances and clothing in need of mending. But the observations that have stayed with me were of the volunteer staff and their care, patience and skill in repairing things I would have not thought possible. The objects were gently fixed and their owners were listened to as they told the story of their treasure, adding a personal touch that is missing in today's disposable culture.

It's inspiring how a community can come together to extend the life of things that would otherwise be discarded, all while fostering a sense of connection.

The Tool Library is open from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays, in addition to hosting the Repair Café several times a year.

Angie Gordon

Three Years of PORCH

Greenbelt PORCH is celebrating its third year. Greenbelt PORCH is the only PORCH community in the state of Maryland. We love our donors who have donated over 15 tons of food to our struggling neighbors. February is traditionally one of our slowest months. People are focused on giving during the holiday months of November and December, which is wonderful, but the people in our communities who are experiencing food insecurity need our help all year long.

If you are located in an area where a PORCH Coordinator does not exist, you can contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com by noon on February 16th and I will come directly to your home by 4 p.m. Show the Love on Valentine's Day weekend by donating. In fact, you can join PORCH as a contributing participant or as a PORCH Coordinator for your neighborhood at any time of the year!

Finally, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the Greenbelt PORCH Coordinators: Steve and Janet Mirsky, John Campanile, Lynn Poirier, Dorrie Bates, Dale and Vince Wilding, Betty Timer, Neil McFarb, Phyllis Oresky, Angela Noyes and Lien and Maya Gareri, the first teenage PORCH Ambassadors in the nation, and their wonderfully supportive parents, Holly and Joe.

Thanks for your three years of generosity.

Robert Goldberg-Strassler
Greenbelt PORCH Founder

Insight on BEP Project

I read with interest Deanna Dawson's article about the cancelled USACE Baltimore solicitation for construction of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing project in Beltsville. (See Feb. 6, 2025 issue.)

One of the key reasons why the project was mothballed is because of a lack of competition from qualified contractors. The Biden administration's decision to require a controversial union-favoring project labor agreement (PLA) on the project deterred four of the five pre-qualified contractors invited to bid on Phase 2 of the procurement from doing so. The lone bidder couldn't meet the project's budget/scope, unfortunately.

A federal court in January ruled that former President Joe Biden's policy requiring project PLAs on 12 federal construction projects of $35 million or more to be unlawful for violating the federal Competition in Competition Act:

"The agencies' 2024 implementation of the mandate—ignoring the agencies' own market research concluding project labor agreements would be anticompetitive—relying solely on executive order presidential policy is arbitrary and capricious. Specifically, the functionality of the mandate as applied to the individual contracts in this case stifles competition and violates the statutory directive that agencies must promote "full and open competition" in federal procurements unless a statutory justification is properly invoked."

This BEP project will need to be rebid and project costs will most certainly increase because delays equal added costs in the construction industry.

The fate of this project is unclear.

Ben Brubeck
Vice President of Regulatory, Labor and State Affairs
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (ABC)

Mishkan Torah Celebrates Purim

Mishkan Torah invites everyone to join in their Purim festivities this year on Sunday, March 9 at 11 a.m. Come by for a Purim carnival, with games, crafts, hamantaschen, pizza and fun for kids and adults of all ages. On Thursday, March 13, come back for the annual multilingual Megillah reading and Purim spiel, starting at 7 p.m. Learn more at MishkanTorah.org, and respond with the names of kids and adults attending to RSVP@MishkanTorah.org. This event is free.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW
Visually impaired may listen for free
Call Metropolitan Washington Ear
301-681-6636
No special equipment needed

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION
Community Center Room 114
15 Crescent Rd
ALL ARE WELCOME!
A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community
OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owner@groups.io

"Justice is vital to the establishment of unity and harmony at all levels of society, as it provides the standard by which individual conduct and collective effort are judged."
– Bahá'u'lláh
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate hope with us.

The Bible Says...
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails!
1 Corinthians 13:7-8
MCF COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org
Welcomes you each Sunday for Worship & Sunday School at 10:00 AM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
www.myholycross.org
Sunday Worship: 9:30 A.M.
Bible Study: 11:15 A.M.
Thursday Thrift Store
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.
Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH
Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday School 9:15am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm
101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road
We are an Open and Affirming Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School
www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am,11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.
*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
February 16, 2025 at 3:00 pm
Reshaping Hearts: DEI Politics and UU Theology
Ebony Peace with Worship Associate Lula Beatty
As we witness the United States grappling with a tide of regressive laws and ideologies, the question isn't just about what we can do, but who we can become. The challenge is clear: How do we champion equity and inclusion when the broader landscape seems to be moving backward? Unitarian Universalist theology offers a beacon of hope and resilience. Let's reflect on how we might reshape hearts and minds to create a future where everyone belongs.
Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 17-21

Monday, February 17, **NO MEETING - PRESIDENTS' DAY**

Tuesday, February 18 at 7 pm, **UTILITY PROVIDERS TOWN HALL**

Tuesday, February 18 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda/Minutes, Tribesy Report, Review Key Findings from Homework, Prioritize Research Gaps, Subcommittee Reports, Public Comment*

Wednesday, February 19 at 7 pm, **SPECIAL MEETING - CITY EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN (VIRTUAL)**

Wednesday, February 19 at 7:30 pm, **CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE AND ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEWS (VIRTUAL)**

Wednesday, February 19 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes/Agenda, Council Liaison Updates, Discussion on WMATA's 2025 Better Bus Network Proposed Route and Stop Changes, Staff Updates*

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

UTILITY PROVIDER TOWN HALL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AT 7 PM

Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

Join us as we host a town hall with Greenbelt's utility providers. PEPCO, the Maryland Energy Division, Washington Gas, and WSSC will be in attendance to provide information on changes in rates, policies, and services. They will also be available to answer questions and concerns that you may have.

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar for more information or call (301) 474-8000.

pepco AN EXELON COMPANY — WSSCWATER DELIVERING THE ESSENTIAL — Washington Gas A WGL Company

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Community Pledge:

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

Learn more at https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources.

DONATE TO THE PINK PANTRY

Providing free access to menstruation products for low-income residents in Greenbelt. You can help donate by hosting a community drive or through individual donations.

Seeking donations of pads, heat pads, feminine wipes, cotton washcloths, sensitive laundry detergent, sensitive feminine wash, sensitive body wash & bar soap.

Contact Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

DONATE TO THE GREENBELT NURSERY PROKECT

Providing support for low-income Greenbelt parents with nursery items. You can help donate by hosting a community drive, through individual donations, or volunteering at our quarterly distribution.

Seeking donations of gentle laundry detergent, laundry detergent pods, basic thermometers, baby/child nail clippers, night lights, and baby proofing products.

Contact Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Join us this February as we celebrate black history month with events brought to us by The Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee, Greenbelt Recreation, and the Prince George's County Office of Human Rights.

Finally Got the News - Film Screening
Monday, February 17, 7 pm, *New Deal Café*

The Peace and Justice Coalition will show the documentary about the League of Revolutionary Black Workers in Detroit's auto factories in 1969. Bill Fletcher Jr., a prominent African American labor activist, scholar, and author, will lead the post-film discussion. Email reelandmealnewdealcafe@gmail.com for more information

Breaking Ground: The WPA Original Gardeners - Lecture
Thursday, February 20, 7 pm, *Zoom*

The Greenbelt Museum welcomes members of the Norfolk Botanical Garden staff for a look back at the garden's history involving Black women employed by the WPA and forward to the site's latest project, the Garden of Tomorrow.

Tea with the Ladies of FREED
Friday, February 21, 2 pm, *Greenbelt Community Center, Room 103*

Tea with the Ladies of FREED (Female Re-enactors of Distinction).

Piece by Piece - Film Screening
Saturday, February 22, 1 pm, *Greenbelt Cinema*

Greenbelt Cinema and RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) will present a free showing of the 2024 biographical musical comedy film about the life of Pharrell Williams. The film uses LEGO bricks to tell Williams' story.

Greenbelt Orchestra Performance
Sunday, February 23, 3 pm, *Greenbelt Community Center*

The Greenbelt Orchestra will feature works by composers from the African diaspora including Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Quinn Mason, and Florence Price.

Learn about our Black History Month events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/BHM or visit the City's calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 17, in observance of Presidents'.Day
THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE
Week of February 17
Monday Route – Collected Tuesday
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, February 21.

SENIOR TECH CAFE
Saunday, February 23, 1 - 3 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Room 109, 15 Crescent Road

Whether you're new to computers, iPhones, Androids, or tablets, our friendly volunteers are here to assist you! We're here to guide you and provide support as you explore and get comfortable with your devices and technology. Drop by anytime during our session—no appointment necessary.

Please note: We are not a "Genius Bar" and do not fix devices, but we're more than happy to help you learn how to make the most of your technology!

Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov, or by calling (240) 542-2056 for more information.

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

For 6 months your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt. Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity

Questions? Luisa Robles: lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2153.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS
THURSDAYS: FEBRUARY 20, MARCH 20, APRIL 17

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Lower Parking Lot: 1 - 3 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia Maddox at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: Registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

DANCE WORKSHOP AND FILM SCREENING
February 16, 11 am - 3 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Hip-Hop Dance Workshop. Sign-up to attend a FREE hip-hop dance workshop at the Greenbelt Community Center! Ages 10-adult. 11 am - 12:30 pm. Taught by Manish Chouhan, star of the award-winning documentary *Call Me Dancer.*

Film Screening. Sign-up also to attend a FREE screening of the film and a Q&A session at the Greenbelt Cinema, 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Sponsored by Greenbelt Cinema with support from Greenbelt Recreation.

Sign-up today at https://ow.ly/oNwk50UTJrZ.

JOIN THE CHARTER REVIEW TASKFORCE

Are you passionate about shaping the future of our city? Do you want to have a say in how our local government operates? Now is your chance to make a difference!

The City of Greenbelt is forming a Charter Review Task Force to evaluate and recommend changes to our city's charter. We are looking for dedicated residents who are eager to contribute their time and expertise to this important process.

Submit an application at the following link: https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/boards-committees/application-for-appointment-to-boards-and-committees. *Scheduling interviews for February 3 at 7:30 pm.*

For more information or to apply, please contact City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltmd.gov or (301) 474-3870.

"IF I WERE MAYOR" ESSAY CONTEST
25TH ANNIVERSARY

This digital essay contest has inspired nearly 50,000 young minds to dream big & learn about local government. The theme for this year's contest is "building community for a new generation."

This contest is open to all Maryland 4th grade students enrolled in the 2024-2025 school year. Essays must be submitted digitally, not exceed 275 words, begin with "If I were mayor," and received no later than March 7, 2025.

Visit https://bit.ly/3W3nVBG to learn more.

HYPERTENSION AWARENESS & MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
Wednesday, February 19, 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Greenbelt Community Center, Room 202, 15 Crescent Road

Take Control of Your Blood Pressure! Hypertension Awareness & Management Workshop Join Greenbelt Recreation and Luminis Health for an informative workshop where we'll educate you about high blood pressure, its health risks, and effective strategies for prevention and management.

Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542 2056, pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov, for more information. FREE. Open to All Ages.Activity # 177211-1.

PRESIDENTS' DAY OF SERVICE
FEBRUARY 17, 10 AM - 1 PM
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Be part of the community effort to protect trees from beaver herbivory and invasive vines at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to place wire caging around the trunks of native trees to protect them from beaver herbivory and remove invasive vines.

Register by email at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greenbelt, MD - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County's decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Office of the County Executive
countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-4131

Office of the County Fire Chief
tdgreen@co.pg.md.us
(301) 883-5200

At-Large County Council Member Hawkins
At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-2195

County Council Member District 4
councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-3094

Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:

City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or council@greenbeltmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Trees, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education**, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Fiscal Year 2026 Recognition Group applications and policy guide are now available on the City website at https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/recreation-parks/recognition-groups-applications.

Applications are due by close of business Monday February 3, 2025.

Please call Cathryn Pracht at (240) 542-2196 with any questions.

Comedy! A Good Prescription For Curing the Winter Blues

by Greg Young

Winter got you down with those long cold nights and short days? Maybe it's world or local events giving you that knot in your stomach. Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) has the perfect prescription to cure the blues: Comedy.

GAC Vice President of Programs Wes Dennis was scouting last year, to encourage local artists to submit to GAC for a production. Jeff Dunne was one such creative artist and after meeting with Dennis, Dunne submitted one of over 175 scripts he has written in the last 15 years. The play, No Laughing Matter, is a comedy sure to give you warm laughs, a perfect prescription for winter blues.

While Dunne is not a physician, he does have a doctorate in the sciences and did post-graduate work at Purdue, completing intern work as far away as California and Utah and working his way back to the East Coast. He has been residing in Maryland now for over 20 years. Writing scripts is not his only talent by a long shot. He loves to play guitar, is accomplished on several other instruments and has written over 150 songs. However, theater occupies much of his endeavors (when he is not working at Johns Hopkins), including acting and directing. He has directed several short plays, and this is his second outing to direct a full-length play.



PHOTO COURTESY JEFF DUNNE

Jeff Dunne, writer and director of No Laughing Matter

Dunne has been working since December with his selected thespians whom he describes as a "super-talented cast." He confides it was stressful to have to turn away so many unbelievably talented actors. That's a good thing for GAC fans, because they will have the opportunity to see some of the very best local players. And since comedy is actually a pretty serious business for actors, it's good that Dunne had many performers from whom to choose. It's not enough to know the lines. It's about timing, and it takes a lot of rehearsing to make it right.

Taking the opportunity to watch one of the rehearsals, it was clear the actors were already honing their characters with much attention to detail. Dunne's play uses character conflict to create a lot of laughs for his audience. He has found a way to blend outlandish characters and have them oppose others who are just trying to get through life. Can conflict be funny? Think of Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg in The Other Guys. The cast of No Laughing Matter has several such conflicts, and they are sure to make the audience laugh out loud.

The premise of the play is sort of a spy thriller with two conflicted FBI (Federal Bureau of IDIOTS) agents who verbally spar with each other throughout their endeavors to catch a Russian spy. Their focus is on a recent Russian immigrant who is still learning English. His mistakes with language add to many comedic opportunities to fulfill a prescription from Dr. Dunne, uh, Director Dunne. Can't give away too much here, so see it for yourself.

No Laughing Matter opens Friday, February 21 and plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through March 8 at the Greenbelt Arts Center, 123 Crescent Road. On Sunday, March 2, all supporting personnel and audience members are required to wear masks so those who are immunocompromised have an opportunity to see the show. Tickets are required. For more information go to greenbeltartscenter.org.

Black History Month Poster



PHOTO BY CIARRA WALTERS

Leilah Eggleston, left, a junior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, was one of four students chosen to create the annual Prince George's County Black History Month poster during the PG Parks and Recreation screen printing internship that took place in the summer of 2024. The unveiling of this poster took place at the Montpelier Arts Center for its new exhibition, A Good Government Job.

Crescent Pointe, Parkway Apartments Heat Restored

As of Wednesday, February 5, heat was restored to the Crescent Pointe and Parkway Gardens apartments, whose residents had been without it since October.

As we reported in the January 30 issue, three broken boilers were impacting heat for these apartment buildings, located on Parkway and on Crescent Road, near Roosevelt Center. Repairs were completed to all three boilers, Public Information Officer Chondria Andrews told the News Review, and heat has been restored to all 54 units. It's good news for residents who have managed without heat for months, particularly as the city prepared for more snow this week. In total, the city issued $14,150 in fines for heat-related code violations.

School News

County Schools Will Be Open February 14 for Make-up Day

So far this school year, Prince George's County Public Schools has closed schools for five days due to inclement weather, including Wednesday, February12. Below is the plan for making up these instructional days:

Make-up day one: February 14 – This day, originally scheduled as a professional day for teachers, was designated in the school calendar as a potential make-up day. Schools will now be open for students on February 14.

Make-up days two, three and four: June 16 to 18 – These three make-up days are built into the 2024-25 school calendar at the end of the school year.

Make-up day 5: March 17– This week, Wednesday marked a fifth inclement day, which means March 17 will be converted to an instructional day.

If inclement weather closings exceed five days, additional school days may need to be scheduled at the end of the school year.

Community Federal Credit Union Announces Scholarship Program

Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union (PGCFCU) announces the return of its annual scholarship program, reaffirming its dedication to supporting education in the local community. This year, the credit union will award four $2,500 scholarships to deserving high school, undergraduate, graduate and/or nontraditional students who live, work, volunteer, worship or attend school in Prince George's County.

The scholarship, named in honor of two esteemed credit union pioneers, Virginia Stallings and Cindy Prestandrea, reflects PGCFCU's longstanding commitment to empowering its members through financial support and community investment.

In 2024, under the leadership of President and CEO Diane Coleman Brown, the program saw significant expansion. The number of scholarships doubled from two to four, and the total award amount increased from $2,000 to $10,000.

The eligibility criteria were also broadened to include nontraditional students and applicants pursuing trade school education.

To apply, candidates must complete an application detailing their academic achievements and community involvement, as well as submit a video essay. Applicants must also be members of PGCFCU or become members by opening a savings account with the minimum required deposit. The application deadline is Saturday, March 1 at 11:59 p.m. For additional details and to apply, visit princegeorgescfcu.org/scholarship.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on February 20, 2025

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on January 23, 2025
b) Contract
c) Financial Matters
d) Member Matters
e) Personnel Matter

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

a) Statement of Closed Meeting Held on February 20, 2025
b) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on January 23, 2025
c) Committee Reports – Finance Committee
d) Request to Become a GHI Approved Lender
e) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on March 6, 2025

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Black American History Month

Black Workers Seize the Camera: Historic 1970 Labor Film Screens

by Donna Hoffmeister



PHOTO COURTESY ICARUS FILMS

Still from Finally Got the News

A groundbreaking documentary born from Detroit's labor struggles will screen at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 17 at the Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café. Finally Got the News (1970) captures a watershed moment when Black autoworkers challenged both racial discrimination and exploitative working conditions in Detroit's automotive plants. The film's title comes from autoworker Joe L. Carter's pointed lyrics about union dues at the Ford Rouge plant: We finally got the news about how our dues being used.

In the early 1960s, when automobile manufacturers reluctantly began hiring Black workers, they relegated them to the most dangerous, lowest-paying positions. By 1968, Black workers at Chrysler's Dodge plant had had enough. They formed the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM), demanding safer conditions and an end to racist practices.

The movement quickly expanded beyond auto plants. The League of Revolutionary Black Workers, formed in June 1969, united workers across Detroit's industrial and service sectors. Revolutionary Union Movements (RUMs) sprang up at United Parcel Service (UPRUM), healthcare facilities (HRUM) and the Detroit News (NEWRUM), joining their counterparts from Dodge (DRUM), Ford (FRUM) and other auto plants. Together, they built a powerful cross-industry coalition of Black workers fighting for better conditions and racial justice.

The film's own story mirrors this worker-led struggle for self-determination. When a New York alternative film collective called Newsreel began documenting Detroit's social upheaval but later lost interest, the League refused to let their story go untold. In a decisive move, they took control of the filming equipment, determined to document their experiences building a Black radical organization from the ground up. Three Newsreel filmmakers stayed behind to provide technical support, but the League maintained creative control.

Unlike other movements of the era that focused on students or youth, such as SNCC, the Black Panthers or Students for a Democratic Society, the League positioned Black workers as the primary agents of social change. Their story challenged not only auto industry practices but also the established United Auto Workers union.

Following the screening, Howard University political science professor Clarence Lusane, Ph.D., will lead a discussion about the film's historical significance and contemporary relevance. Lusane brings unique insight as a Detroit native whose high school Black Student Association had connections with the League. His first-hand experience of the movement during his years at Wayne State University, combined with his extensive scholarly career and his experience as a political consultant to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and former Commissioner on the D.C. Commission on African American Affairs, promises to enrich the audience's understanding of this crucial chapter in American labor history.

The free film starts at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 17 at the New Deal Café in Roosevelt Center. To watch via Zoom, pre-register at tinyurl.com/BlackHistoryFeb17. Don't miss the opportunity to explore a forgotten chapter of American labor history and engage in conversation with a leading political scholar.

Arbor Day Poster Contest for Kids

Maryland Forest Service is sponsoring a Poster contest for all 5th grade classes throughout the State of Maryland. Submissions are due March 3, 2025.

This year's theme celebrates individual trees, but when they come together to form a forest, their collective impact is even greater, especially when a community is planted with a diverse selection of trees.

Visit dnr.maryland.gov/Forests/Pages/Arbor-Day-Poster-Contest.aspx to learn more.

Black American History Month

Greenbelt Community Orchestra Offers Free Concert Feb. 23

by Melissa Sites

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will present a special free concert for Black History Month, Works from the African Diaspora, on Sunday, February 23 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center, with music by Florence Price, Joseph Bologne, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Quinn Mason.

This program celebrates over 200 years of invaluable contributions of composers from the African Diaspora. Orchestra founder Anne Gardner points out, "It was difficult to choose between so many wonderful pieces of music. Hopefully the final choices will give the audience a taste of the breadth, variety and quality of music composed by Black musicians. We hope to include more in future concerts, as our budget allows."

Joseph Bologne (1745-1799), Chevalier de Saint-Georges, was an acclaimed composer of classical music, including quartets, concertos, sonatas, symphonies, opéra comique and more. Bologne was a free man of color; his father was a white plantation owner in the French Caribbean colony of Guadeloupe, where his Creole mother was enslaved. He excelled in many fields – as an athlete, marksman, fencer and dancer, and of course as a violinist, conductor and composer. His dramatic life during the Revolutionary era was fictionalized in the movie Chevalier. The orchestra will play his Symphony #1.

The orchestra will play a piece by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) called Danse Nègre. His name might sound familiar because his English mother named him after the Romantic era poet, Samuel Taylor Coleridge; his father came to London from Sierra Leone to study medicine. Coleridge-Taylor toured the United States three times in the early 1900s and was sometimes called the African Mahler. His two children were also successful musicians.

Florence Smith Price (1887-1953) was a prolific composer born in Little Rock, Arkansas. Price double majored in piano teaching and organ at the New England Conservatory of Music. Having married an attorney, she and her family moved to Chicago to escape the Jim Crow south, and there she was part of the Chicago Black Renaissance. Price composed over 300 works: four symphonies, four concertos, choral works, art songs and more, including two songs dedicated to her friend, the acclaimed contralto, Marian Anderson. The orchestra will perform her work called Ethiopia's Shadow in America. "I am a big fan of Florence Price's music," Gardner states. "I love the lush orchestration and the way she incorporates elements of jazz, spirituals and folk songs in her music."



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Greenbelt Community Orchestra, seen here at their March 2024 concert, will play a program for Black History Month on February 23 at the Community Center.

Quinn Mason (born 1996), is a prize-winning young composer whose music has been commissioned and performed by over 170 orchestras. Conductor Derek Maseloff said, "We're thrilled to present the second-ever performance of Quinn Mason's Symphony No. 5. Mason is one of the rising composers of his generation and this symphony, inspired by the tumult in 2020, is unfortunately quite fitting for the current uncertain moment we find ourselves in. The members of the orchestra had the rare opportunity to work directly with the composer and gain valuable insight into performing his work."

Greenbelt Community Orchestra provides an outlet for local musicians to play together and to share their love of music with the local community, with more than 50 people in the orchestra, 40 percent of whom are Greenbelt residents. They held their first concert in November 2023, led by conductors Derek Maseloff and Seth Glabman, and have drawn 150-200 attendees to each of their subsequent three free concerts per year.

The orchestra seeks donations in order to pay for rights to perform a diverse selection of music. Pieces by women and composers of color have mostly been published recently and are scarce in the public domain. The orchestra has sought grant funding, including operating funds from the City of Greenbelt, which would allow the orchestra to pay their conductors, and a grant from Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council to support a Women's History concert in 2026. Both grants, if awarded, would require one-to-one matching funds from donations. Learn more about supporting the orchestra at GreenbeltOrchestra.org or follow them on Facebook.

The orchestra's next concert will be on Thursday, May 22 in the Eleanor Roosevelt High School auditorium, in collaboration with the ERHS band program.

NEW LISTINGS!

73D Ridge Road



3 BD | 1 BA | $225,000

A roomy, beautifully designed deck and landscaped back yard is one of our favorite things about this peaceful, well-maintained co-op townhome.

11Q Ridge Road



3 BD | 1.5 BA | $385,000

Beautifully updated and meticulously cared for Greenbelt co-op home with a half bath on 1st floor!

18N Ridge Road



2 BD | 1 BA | $220,000

Stylish, intelligent renovations and updates throughout, including a beautifully modern, compact kitchen and a laundry/storage room with full-sized laundry machines and cabinetry.

Kim Kash

Realtor®
m 301.789.6294
kim.kash@compass.com

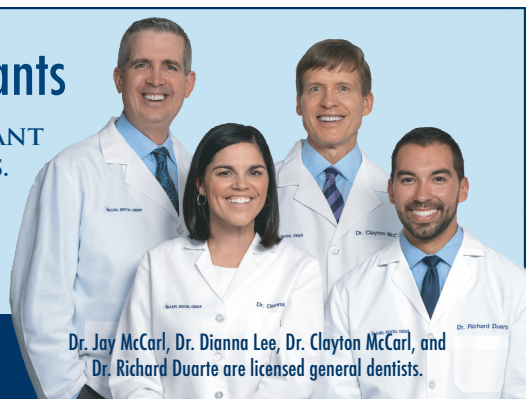
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Greenbelt 301.474.4144 | Shipley's Choice Medical Park 410.987.8800

Love Notes



Laura and Chance –
Strawberries are red,
blueberries are blue,
every day we have
more love for you two.
Nana + Pop

We hope that every time you look at a mirror you see what we see. You are a reflection of kindness and intelligence. You have a heart full of love and a soul full of hope. You are amazing and beautiful both inside and out. Have dreams, make memories, live life to the full. Be brave, be strong, and always walk tall. We love you, nous t'aimons, te amamos.

To Annie, from Marc:
We travel the world it is true
Here's something I already knew
Though beauties abound
I've never found
A woman as special as you

Ed Loves Abby!

Ayla my wife
who I admire and adore
I'll love you forever,
and then one day more
Love, from Michael

Maria ♥ Maria
Thank you for being you!
Much love, Linda Lu ♥



MAMA,
ROSES ARE RED,
VIOLETS ARE BLUE,
SUGAR IS SWEET
AND SO ARE YOU.
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY.
WOO-HOO! LOVE, MABEL

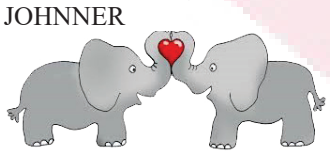
Mabes —
Do you know how
happy you make me
every day?
Soooooo much!
—- Pops

Simran,
Aisa pehli baar hua hai satrah athrah saalon mein
Undekha anjaana koi aane laga hai khayalon mein
Aankhon ki khidki par ek saya sa lehrata hai
Dil ke darwaze par koi dastak de ke jaata hai
-Raj

Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
Frodo and I
Really Love You!
Thanks for taking care of us!

Dearest Peaceman,
Enough of this.
Shall we reconcile?
I sense sparks
between us.
—WFGUP

MY DEAR SASA:
LOBSTER CLAWS CLICKING
ALL MY LOVE,
JOHNNER



Greenbelt utility pole (or should I say **WORLD FAMOUS** Greenbelt Utility Pole). You always make my day. Being world famous isn't easy (I should know, I'm the coolest person ever). So, I would like to thank you.
Thanks,
Ophelia

Papa Bear -
My love, my light, my home, always.
Mama Bear

My Darling Stacey

You are the love of my life
I love you in sickness and health
No matter what trials or strife
Our eternal love is our true wealth

I'll be forever by your side
Holding hands on this roller coaster ride
Our years together grow longer
Our trust and faith becomes stronger

There's nothing better than your beautiful smile
I love your heart and your style
We've already won and come out on top
Because we are Grandma and Pop Pop!

In Greenbelt the keys now reside
Handsome husband and me! Happy bride
He gave me his name
What more can I say?
Joy greater than words can describe

Darling, I love your greatness of soul
Your quick wit and true heart of gold
The good Lord gave you to me
(And so soon we'll be three!)
What more could I want in the world?

Mommy: Life with you is a treat so big,
it wouldn't fit into any kong.
Daddy, Daughter, & Watson

What would we do without Wednesdays?
Bams craks dots
Winds dragons flowers
Tiles chirping, walls built
Dancing right across left left across right
Tiles tossed, called, "wait," called for
Mahjongg!



Dear Super Kitty,
We love your songs, dances, stories, games, and silliness. We love your hugs, I love yous, kindness and caring.
We love you more than infinity!
Love, Mama Kitty and Daddy Kitty

Happy Valentine's Day
to Karen
from your
kitty friends, Sage,
Lyle, and Parker.

Dear NONNA FERNANDA,
We love you!
Have a wonderful Valentine's Day!
Love, Kayla, Gloria & Nellie

- Ilan we wanna hug, hug, hug you and we'll never stop,
- whoa
- We love to squeeze, squeeze, squeeze you til' you're ready to pop,
- whoa, oh, oh
- Wrote this Mega Sweetie with your sister,
- We love Shaya just as much plus her rhymes are bolder,
- We hug you both so much we've got backaches
- Make no mistakes
- Always know we love you

In the library's cozy Novel Endings room,
A blind date with an unknown yet clue-filled volume.
Donate a tale for children bright,
To spark their dreams and light the night.
Novel Endings Open House,
February 15, 11a-3p

This is for Rick, who puts up with a lot
But at least the food's edible and usually hot.
We made a fine family which continues to thrive
What with one thing and another,
I'm glad we're alive.

"N,
I cut down trees, I eat my lunch, I go to the lavatory.
On Wednesdays I go shopping, and have buttered scones for tea.
More tea (and coffee), more music, more hanging out with you.
D"

Ricardito, I am so happy our paths crossed at the pool. Now I believe in miracles. I love you. LF

Continued on page 16

I proclaim it, deeply, truly
The deep love I have for Julie
She's the tops, the best, my all
Always there if I might fall

She's patient, kind, my better half
Puts up with me, She makes me laugh
And when I feel the world may beat me
She smiles at me, & sets my heart free

Ay kurnye a ga
kaanu danga
lamti biski ihanno.
Bakasinay watikulu,
Madiya

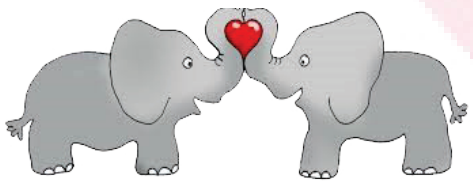


Thirty years ago, we pledged to reach 30 years together and we made it! Thirty years ago, we formed a bond which has endured in sickness and health.
Our life together has been a wonderful journey.
Love, David and Mashe

A heart of gold, a smile so bright,
My grandma-in-law, my guiding light.
Her laughter dances, pure and sweet,
A melody where joy and kindness meet.
A precious gem, so rare, so true,
My heart is full, because of you.



So very unique? Uniquest? Most unique? No(feh); not the *most juste*. Bu-bu-buber's second pronoun, to this man's I.



Bubinski Rabinowitz, 45 years and still going strong. Every day, in every way, my respect, admiration, and love for you grow deeper. With you, my life is brighter and more beautiful than I ever imagined, and I cherish each and every moment we share. Thank you for being my rock, my heart, and the love of my life.
With all my love, H

To My Spring Fav — Twinleaf
My graceful little white flowers.
Come and see them quickly!
Who knows what tomorrow brings?
A sweet breeze may send to ground.





Dear GNR Staff ♥
On and on and on we go. You always tell me what I need to know! ♥

Leenie, it continues to be "So much fun being us with you"!
All my Love, your Schatzie



Apple, Cherry and Banana Cream Pies are all perfectly fine, but P-Pie will always be my favorite!

In a library's quiet nook,
A blind date with a sought-after book.
Pages whisper secrets old,
In stories yet to be told.

Novel Endings Open House,
February 15, 11a-3p

B -
I love you more than a sale at REI or the double loop at Patuxent. :)
-J





SNUGGLE PUPPY –
I LOVE THE LIFE WE'VE MADE TOGETHER, OUR ADVENTURES, AND FINDING LOVE IN MY POCKETS EVERY DAY.
--SNUGGLE KITTY

TO ALL THE GOOD FOLKS OF EASTWAY AND GIVES,
YOU FED, TRANSPORTED AND ENCOURAGED ME THROUGH A REALLY ROUGH PATCH. FOR THIS I THANK YOU AND WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY WITH LOTS OF ROSES, RED WINE AND CHOCOLATE!!

ONE DAY A YEAR IS NOT ENOUGH TO CELEBRATE HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME. BUT IT DOES LET ME TELL EVERYONE THAT I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU! MATT

Dear Kayla,
We love you!
Good luck at FSU.
Love, Mom, Dad,
Nonna & Nellie



Hosting AFS high school exchange students has expanded our family across the globe. We are so grateful that Cansu and Nadya make us a family this year. We are blessed to have you as our daughters, now and for years to come!
With love, Mom & Dad.

#AFSEffect



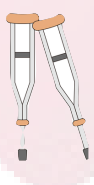
The tile in our bathroom's luxurious
The deck in the backyard is glorious
You're my life's firm foundation
You've my adoration
(Plus bonus! Our gabfest's uproarious!)



Dad Bod Squad: From Schrom Hills to Research Rd,
Sunday mornings are so joyful with you.
-Frosty the Slowman



A town without towers for phones that are cell,
That's lost some emergency med personnel,
Leaves one who has fallen and broken her knee,
One Good Samaritan away from abject misery!
THANK YOU, D.S.





"Mah, is they'ah ANYTHIN' you c'ain't do?
I love your charming idiosyncrasies.
Thank you for putting up with all of mine!"

MAGLEV continued from page 1

wanted to focus on improving current transportation options while others questioned whether the maglev is the correct solution to the transportation issue. Most said that they see no benefit in the project to county residents.

Below are the candidates' unedited answers.

Ron Hunt

The project should not happen. It's going to cost us 10 times it would have cost for us to rehab and make these places brand new and not affect the environment in the process.

The bottom line is this, we have people that are driving this train that have no idea how fast they're going. So if they think they get a good deal, and they say things like, yeah, that's a good deal, we're going to make a deal with the contractor, somebody that knows what they're doing is going to pay at least 30 percent less, but they're not spending their own money. That's why they do what they're doing. So I say no to the new deal. And now what we do in the Greenbelt area, find out how many properties are vacant that Prince George's County has, and let's see if we can rebound, rehab them because the infrastructure is already there with the electric, with the water and gas, and why not see if we can spend a fraction of the money and not mess with the environment at all?

George McDermott

Greenbelt was a vision as someone who was born in Bowie, Maryland in the 40s. The whole metropolitan region has changed along with population growth and transportation needs; Greenbelt has grown from a segregated community to a racially diverse community, when the FBI is relocated to Greenbelt it will mean even more changes to the community. The new County Executive and County Council, along with parking planning commission all have a responsibility towards maintaining responsible use of our limited land resources.

Unfortunately. With the new federal administration taking over the relocation of the new FBI headquarters to Greenbelt and the maglev may never be funded the best the county executive can do is to ensure our residents and environmental impacts and community impacts as well as educational index on our citizens on a compromised by federal of a reach and corporate Government. Abandonment of principles and legal and constitutional rights which they are encroaching on each and every day. The county executive must serve all of the diverse community and not let our communities to be trampled on by the new administration at the federal level, in violation of their oath of office.

Moisette Tonya Sweat

I first learned the detailed plans for and concerns with the maglev in 2021. Before then, I was familiar with the train system in Japan and only knew what little I had heard in the press. Based on the environmental impact statement and other reports, I have grave concerns about SCMaglev. I cannot support the project based on the environmental impact statement alone. My research indicates the potential harm to the environment far outweighs any benefit maglev is projected to bring. I am also concerned about the financial costs, especially considering the developer has not been transparent and forthright about projected ridership or the cost of construction. I appreciate the need to reduce traffic congestion and to provide transportation options. I also understand light rail is a possible solution. However, I question whether maglev will really address those needs. The project includes limited stops, which will impact the number of people who choose to use this mode of transportation. Specifically, there are no stops planned for Prince George's County, even though we will be expected to sacrifice a large portion of our environment. I will raise my and Prince Georgians' concerns with the State, M-NCPPC and the District Council regarding the maglev project. I do not have the authority to stop the project, but I can oppose it loudly and influence the construction if it is approved through the permitting process.

Alonzo Washington

I am unequivocally opposed to the maglev project and will continue to fight against it as County Executive. As Greenbelt's State Senator and Delegate, I have held several town hall meetings, created community sign-on letters and sponsored legislation to prevent the train from becoming a reality. The maglev is not in the best interest of Prince Georgians – and I will continue to stand in opposition to this project. Instead, we need to focus on supporting existing public transportation and improving pedestrian infrastructure. My administration will also work to spur new economic development around existing transit hubs in New Carrollton, Greenbelt, Largo, etc.

Jonathan White

I oppose the maglev project due to its environmental and financial risks to Greenbelt and surrounding communities. Concerns include potential harm to the Patuxent Research Refuge, increased noise pollution and disruptions to local ecosystems. The unclear financing structure raises fears of taxpayer burdens with limited benefits. While transportation improvements are needed, this is not the right solution for Prince George's County. The project's estimated $10 billion cost and extended timeline could cause prolonged disruption. Our focus should be on completing existing infrastructure projects and investing in community-driven transportation solutions that are less invasive and more practical. As County Executive, I would support community-focused transit solutions that prioritize sustainability. Enhancing MARC train service and exploring bus rapid transit (BRT) options are key strategies for cost-effective and eco-friendly improvements. I will collaborate with federal and state officials to ensure major infrastructure projects in Prince George's County meet resident interests and environmental standards. If the project proceeds, I will ensure strict environmental safeguards, transparent financing and active community engagement. Residents will have a decisive say

See **MAGLEV,** page 11

COUNCIL continued from page 1

repairs will begin in April, and the project will be completed by the end of September. During that period, the fitness center will remain open but the indoor pool will be closed.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed both measures. He did not comment on the legislation or explain his opposition, but in the January 22 pool worksession he questioned the use of Open Space funds for the project.

Ethics Ordinance

At its last meeting, council introduced legislation repealing and replacing the Article IV Ethics Provisions in the city code to align with state law. In an unusual move, council agreed to start the approval process, but to defer introducing the legislation for first reading until the February 10 council meeting at the urging of Mayor Emmett Jordan so that the city solicitor could vet the changes. Jordan had proposed and council had accepted adding a provision that council could waive fees for failure to file specified reports on time by a simple majority vote. Additional changes were proposed by Jordan and the ethics commission.

Legislative Update

Council also received an update from Darrell Carrington of Carrington and Associates, with whom the city has contracted to monitor state and county legislation affecting Greenbelt. He noted that the state faces a $3 billion projected deficit. Governor Wes Moore has proposed $2 billion in cuts, leaving the General Assembly to find another $1 billion in reductions.

One step is that state senators will get an allocation of just $400,000, down from $1 million in bond funds. He said that his company is still reviewing the president's executive orders to examine their potential local impact.

Council moved to support proposed state legislation: 1) opposing maglev, 2) permitting civilian police personnel to review speed camera footage, 3) giving zoning authority to municipalities, 4) enabling municipalities to levy food and beverage fees and 5) imposing a deposit on cans and bottles.

Consent Agenda

As part of the consent agenda (actions approved without discussion), council:

– Agreed to support the Coalition for Prince George's County Fire and Emergency Management Services. The coalition plans to send a letter to county executive candidates regarding the reallocation of career firefighters. The letter says, in part, "A combination of foreseeable circumstances led to this emergency, which resulted in longer response times and multiple deaths. It doesn't have to be this way." The coalition has prepared a number of recommendations to address the problems. These include reducing barriers to volunteerism, funding 150 new Fire/EMS personnel, facility support for volunteer properties and apparatus and establishing a task force for efficiency and recruitment, among others.

– Reappointed members of several advisory boards, appointed former councilmember Judith Davis to the Advisory Planning Board and accepted the resignation of John Paul Schmidt from the Forest Preserve Advisory Board.

– As recommended by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, approved four new recognition groups: French Conversation, Ukulele Ladies, Boys to Men and Greenbelt Book Club.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 3-9, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported a sexual assault leading to arrest; two mental health diversions, one involving attempted suicide; and five domestic incidents, one involving vandalism and another leading to an arrest. A missing person case involved a woman leaving the residence with a suitcase and driving away in her vehicle.

Traffic Fatality

On February 5 at 11:30 p.m. near the 7500 block of Greenbelt Road, patrol officers responded to a vehicle collision involving a pedestrian being struck. The pedestrian, Tejan Bah, 34, of Greenbelt, was transported to a local hospital where he later died of his injuries.

Robbery

On February 7 at 4:56 p.m. near 7601 Hanover Parkway, a high school student was robbed of his shoes after school by two males who assaulted him.

Threat, Arrest

On February 7 at 10 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a man who was threatening people reportedly had a gun. When police arrived he was caught after a brief foot chase. He was arrested on a warrant and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections. A woman with him had an unregistered handgun, and was also arrested and taken to the DOC.

Warrant Arrest

On February 6 at 11:51 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, mall security approached a man known to law enforcement; he had an open warrant and was taken to the station for photographs, then immediately transported to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Trespassing

On February 5 at 12:40 p.m. near 7808 Hanover Parkway, a man was trespassing inside a stairwell in a secured residential building where he did not reside. He was issued a criminal citation and banned from the building.

Fraud

On February 4 near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man dropped his credit card at a store and was later notified it was used to make a purchase there.

On February 6 near 6002 Breezewood Drive, someone called claiming to be a man's insurance company and he sent them money.

On February 9 near 7001 Mathew Street, a woman's wallet went missing and someone made unauthorized charges with her credit cards.

Theft and Shoplifting

On February 3 at 6:13 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, three suspects fled on foot after stealing cosmetic items.

On February 4 at 2:23 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, two women stole groceries and drove away. Officers stopped the vehicle and all items were returned. The two females were identified and banned from the location.

On February 4 at 3:42 p.m. near 7455 Greenbelt Road, a man stole some items.

On February 5 at 12:56 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, two officers witnessed a shoplifting; a short foot chase ensued and subjects were caught.

On February 6 at 8:02 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter dropped the merchandise while fleeing.

Packages were stolen on February 6 near 6200 Springhill Drive, and on February 7 near 5807 Cherrywood Terrace.

On February 7 at 4:22 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was caught stealing and was taken to the Department of Corrections; at 9:01 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, officers stopped a shoplifter outside the store, and he was issued a criminal citation and banned from the store; at 11 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, two people stole a basket of goods.

On February 9 at 1:22 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a suspect stole merchandise and fled in a white pickup truck; at 4:02 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two people stole merchandise.

Trespass with Arrest

On February 7 at 11:12 a.m. near 9120 Edmonston Court, two individuals were staying in an apartment that was supposed to be vacant; they were arrested and taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

On February 5 at 12:41 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a blue moped, 2024 ZHNG ST-Jog 150 (Md: 6343Y8), was stolen from the front parking lot of Planet Fitness.

On February 9 near 5909 Cherrywood Terrace, a white 2017 BMW X1 (Md: 7ER2530) was stolen from the parking lot.

Attempted Theft of Auto

On February 3 at 3:17 a.m. near 6610 Springcrest Drive, officers responded to a report of three men tampering with a vehicle. A witness provided security footage showing a four-door black sedan pulling up to his driveway at 2:46 a.m.; two suspects got out. When they pulled on the vehicle door handle, the car alarm went off and they fled.

Theft from Auto

All four wheels were stolen on February 4 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane from a 2024 Honda Accord; on February 8 near 5811 Cherrywood Terrace from a rental Toyota RAV4; and on February 8 near 6460 Capitol Drive, three tires fell off a vehicle while a man was driving.

Tags were stolen on February 7 near 7303 Sunrise Court and near 9164 Edmonston Road.

Vehicle windows were broken and items stolen on February 3 near 6204 Springhill Drive and near 7001 Mathew Street, and on February 8 near 7810 Walker Drive. On February 3 near 6212 Breezewood Court, a wallet was stolen from a 2008 Ford Focus.

On February 4 at 11:59 a.m. near 7619 Greenbelt Road, while a woman was pumping gas, her tote bag containing her wallet and electronics was taken from the passenger side of her vehicle.

Vandalism to Auto

Vehicle windows were broken but nothing was stolen on February 3 near 9160 Edmonston Road, near 5999 Springhill Drive and near 6204 Springhill Drive.

On February 3 near 9148 Edmonston Road, a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado had a window shattered by a rock, found on the back seat of the vehicle.

On February 5 near 19 Hillside Road, someone hit a vehicle, leaving a 3-inch dent.

Elderly Greenbelt Man Dies From Collision

On January 23, at approximately 4:10 p.m., officers responded to the area of Glenn Dale Boulevard and Daisy Lane for a collision involving two vehicles.

While one driver was uninjured, the other, 86-year-old Paul Benoit, of Greenbelt, was transported to hospital for treatment. He died 12 days later, on February 4.

The preliminary investigation revealed the two involved vehicles collided in the intersection. The Prince George's County Police Department's Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Unit is investigating the cause of the now fatal crash.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to call the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Unit at 301-731-4422.



ON SCREEN continued from page 2

Neon Genesis: The End of Evangelion

In this Japanese mecha anime television series, when violent monsters descend upon Earth to destroy humanity, a reluctant young man joins a small squad of pilots under the command of his cold and dictatorial father to drive back the menace using giant machines that seem to have minds of their own. "The show introduces a brilliant chicken-and-egg conundrum: Do humans define machines, or do machines define us?" said critic Maya Phillips of The New Yorker.

Call Me Dancer

Manish is an athletic street dancer from Mumbai, whose working-class parents depend on their only son's support. When he accidentally walks into an inner-city dance school and encounters a curmudgeonly 70-year-old Israeli ballet master, a hunger develops within him. Ambitious and passionate, Manish is determined to make it as a professional dancer, but the odds are stacked against him. Call Me Dancer is a story of hope, heartache and hard work. Together, Manish and Yehuda transform each other's lives, searching to uncover who and what they are. Yehuda seeks a purpose and a place to call home. Manish dreams of dancing on the world stage but struggles to break free from the confines of his own economic and social circumstances.

The Six Triple Eight

The film is inspired by the first and only Women's Army Corps unit of color to serve overseas in WWII. Despite facing racism and sexism – and grueling working conditions – they were committed to serving their country with honor and distinction. Given an extraordinary mission and united in their determination, these unsung heroes delivered hope and shattered barriers.

Twilight Saga: New Moon

After the abrupt departure of Edward, her vampire love, Bella finds comfort in her deepening friendship with Jacob Black. However, Bella's loyalties are put to the test as she becomes drawn into the world of werewolves, ancient enemies of vampires.

MAGLEV continued from page 10

in our county's future and I will advocate for their concerns.

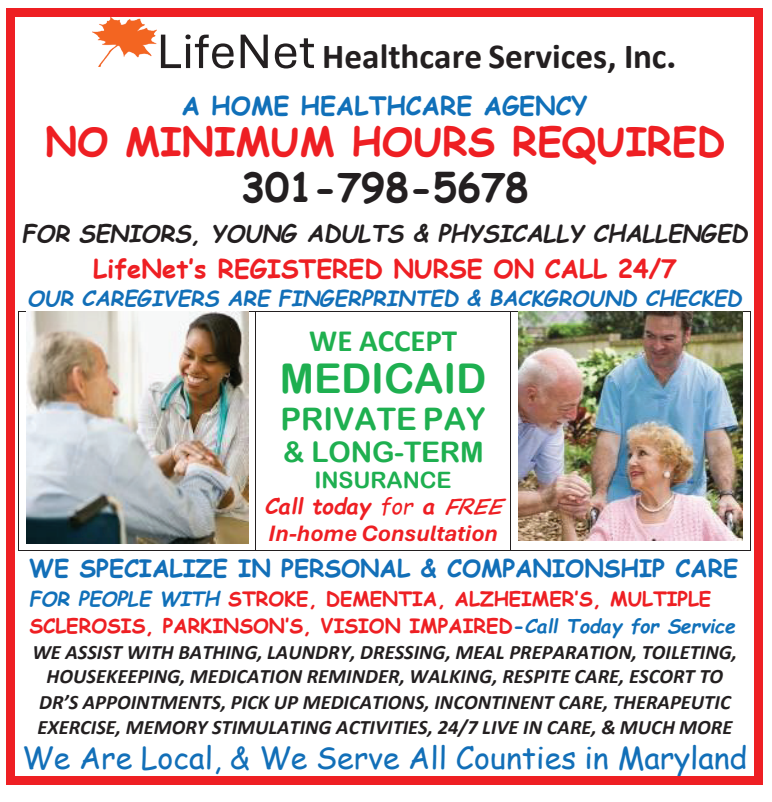
The other six candidates: Rushern Baker (D), Aisha Braveboy (D), Marcellus Crews (D), Calvin Hawkins, Jr. (D), Jesse Peed (R) and Albert Slocum (D) did not respond by our deadline. Campaign finance reporting shows that The Northeast MAGLEV contributed $5,000 to Aisha Braveboy's campaign on December 30, 2024.

Early voting for the March 4 primary election is set to begin on February 26.

Diya Shah and Ryan Colasanti are students at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning at the News Review.

Jolene Ivey Drops Out

Although Jolene Ivey responded to the question and also opposed the maglev, she announced that she was dropping out of the county excecture race on Wednesday, February 12.



Valentine Vignette

Dorothy and Norm Dobson

by Erica Johns

Dorothy Baluch and Norm Dobson were both local University of Maryland students, Norm living in Adelphi with his parents and Dorothy with hers on Lakeside Drive, before she moved to Adelphi. Here's how they told their story to the News Review.

Norm (N): "When I was 19, I was a University of Maryland shuttle bus driver, and when I would drive the bus up Westway, she would get on the bus at the synagogue."

Dorothy (D): "But you'd also see me when I lived in Adelphi."

N: "That's when I finally got the courage to ask you out. But I saw her the first year. When you drive the same route every day and pick up two people here and one person there, eventually you know who's going to be there, so you almost wait for them because you know they're coming. I started seeing Dorothy on the other routes because she moved over to Adelphi."

D: "Norm loves to tell this story. I'll start. I lived in an apartment in Adelphi, and I came out, and the bus is sitting there and I got on the bus. He's in the driver's seat and I sat down, but then I realized 'What's going on, why aren't we going anywhere?'"

N: "Because the bus was just sitting still and the engine was off."

D: "And then? I'll let you tell the rest."

N: "I had a flat tire on that route. I had told my sister about Dorothy. I didn't know her name, but 'There's this girl that I really like.' And she said, 'Well, you have to ask her out.'

"So I had a flat tire, and I would stop the bus and people would get on the bus and say, 'You know you have a flat tire?' I got out the first time and I said, 'Oh, my gosh, I do.' So I said, 'Get on the bus,' because I knew where Dorothy's gonna get on the bus and I had to get there. So I drove down another hill and let somebody on the bus, and he said, 'You know you have a flat tire?' I said 'I know, get on the bus.' Now we go up the other side. At this point, the tire is starting to come off the rim, it's so flat. I turn this hard turn to get up to where Dorothy is gonna be and I park the bus.

"So I'm sitting there, and people get off the bus, Dorothy gets on, and I start just talking with her. And people get on, and say, 'Where's the bus driver?' Because now I'm sitting across from Dorothy. I said, 'He got mad and quit, and just ran off the bus and ran away.' And Dorothy thought that was funny and that broke the ice. And then we started talking and all that. Then I asked Dorothy out, and she said okay, and gave me her phone number. We went to the football game and the rest is …"



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Dorothy and Norm Dobson first met on a bus, and celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary on February 7.

D: "Yeah, but you … A new bus came and I was getting off to get on it, so I had to go quickly, and he said, 'Let's go to the football game. Give me your phone number.' I just grabbed a piece of paper really quickly and gave you the number. I was kind of like, 'OK, I guess I'll give him my number.'"

N: "That's true. So after the next bus comes and everybody gets on and leaves, I'm waiting for the repair guy to come. He parks behind the bus and walks over, and he said, 'You got a flat tire there. The tire's come off the rim.' I said, 'Really?' He said, 'When did you notice you had a flat tire?' I said 'Right back here, about a hundred feet.' He looked at the tire and he said, 'Really? You've driven on this for a while. WHEN did you notice you had a flat tire?' I said 'No, really, just when I was coming up this hill.' And then he said, 'Does this flat tire involve a girl?' I said, 'Well, yes.' He said, 'Okay, as long as it works out, okay.'

N: "Then at the 25-year anniversary reunion of the shuttle bus, I go to it with Dorothy and he was there, this guy George Fish. I said, 'This was the girl.'"

D: "Well, it worked out!"

Dorothy and Norm now have three adult children; Theresa, Nicholas and Matthew. They celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary on February 7.

VIGNETTE continued from page 1

another apartment.

"He'd come over for events with my family, so he was there for Christmas Day. I'd told him for Christmas I wanted a new coat. In the box he had a used yellow raincoat, so I thought we're going to go shopping for a new coat. But he said, 'No, look in the pockets.' So I looked in the pockets and found Cracker Jack boxes. I thought, 'He's giving me candy.' He said 'No, OPEN the boxes.' So I opened them and he – (and all my family was there) – he had taken the prize out and put the diamond ring into the little prize package and put it into the Cracker Jack box, and I opened it up. So my story is, he never actually asked me to marry him. It was just assumed because he gave me this engagement ring."

Diane remembered being invited to Marc's graduation, but that Sandy's wedding was when they really got back together.

Today, Marc and Diane have two adult children, Tyler and Sydney. Their 39th wedding anniversary will be on April 12.



To Greenbelt federal workers in these challenging times: Despite what some may say, you are valued and your work is important. Thank you for your dedicated service to the American people. Stay strong. Persist.
Kristen Weaver,
member of City Council



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Ukrainian Refugees in Greenbelt Affected by New Policy Changes

by Dorothy Bates

Recent executive orders issued by the Trump administration have ramifications for refugees in the Greenbelt area. Three Ukrainian families, sponsored by Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee (GRACE) came to the United States under the State Department's Uniting 4 Ukraine (U4U) program, and have temporary protected status (TPS).

Individuals with TPS under the U4U program have American sponsors and can stay in the United States for up to two years from date of entry. On January 10, the Department of Homeland Security under Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced the extension of TPS for Ukrainian refugees for 18 months. This extension requires re-registration and is limited to individuals already registered for TPS under Ukraine's designation. This population includes nationals of Ukraine (and individuals without nationality who last resided in Ukraine) who have been continuously residing in the United States since at least August 16, 2023, with or without lawful immigration status.

However, the designation of Venezuela for TPS is set to expire on April 2, 2025. New Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem determined that "conditions in Venezuela no longer support the 2023 designation of Venezuela for Temporary Protected Status."

As of February 6, 2025, the U.S. government has ended humanitarian parole programs for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans (CHNV) and paused Uniting for Ukraine, according to Welcome.US, a non-government not-for-profit organization that encourages Americans to help resettle newcomers seeking safety in the United States. Humanitarian parole is temporary, discretionary authorization granted by the U.S. immigration services that allows individuals who are otherwise inadmissible to enter the U.S. for urgent humanitarian reasons. This means Americans cannot submit new sponsorship applications for newly qualified refugees and existing applications will not be processed.

If, as some think likely, the current administration terminates existing humanitarian parole for newcomers who entered the U.S. through CHNV or U4U, parolees who do not already have TPS or a pending application for TPS or asylum will be considered unauthorized to be in the U.S. Anyone wishing more information can call Samantha Deshommes at the United States Customs and Immigration Service, 800-375-5283.

All individuals or families with humanitarian parole status should seek advice from a competent immigration attorney immediately and should work with that attorney to seek alternative status, Welcome.US advises.

GRACE President Frank Gervasi said, "We will continue to support our Ukrainian families. The Greenbelt community has opened its arms to welcome those fleeing war and oppression." For more information on how to help GRACE in its efforts, go to greenbeltrefugeeaid.com.

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USAID continued from page 1

with host government counterparts. "It's not necessarily helpful in building a good relationship with the government," he noted, "but that's what we had to do because stop work is stop work."

Though stopping work may sound simple, there are lots of questions to consider. For Max's project, there are lots of staff, almost all of them local, and "you need to stick to the labor laws in the country," he noted, yet there are unanswered questions about whether you're allowed to pay the salary of the staff who are now not working. There are day-to-day questions where someone needs to make a decision, he says. "It would be very simple at the national level to decide whether salaries are eligible or not … then you can do something about it, whatever the decision is. But that's not provided so a lot of things are up in the air. So we need to interpret, provide the best guess of how things are and then operate like that. All while not getting paid from the government," he said.

"The stop work order is a lot of work," joked Max. He's directing people not to work, looking at regulations and financial scenarios, figuring out how to respond and determining how they can communicate with USAID and if there's someone to communicate with. "It does keep me quite busy, actually," he said. "It's definitely not a joyful situation, because I get a lot of question marks that I look into every day: the eyes of my staff." It's disheartening to not be able to guide his staff on what's going on.

It's also hard to stop their work when they were at a good spot, he says. They had worked very closely with the government there and they had just had some breakthroughs. They were in the middle of trainings that were the result of long negotiations. "This project is in year four of a five year term. That's the time when you harvest the fruits," said Max. Even if they were to restart he's not sure they could make up for the time and the trust that's been lost. "It took a while to build it," he said of that trust.

Max describes USAID as "one of the more stringent organizations" when it comes to how dollars are spent and financial audits. "This is not an industry where there's always fraud and corruption. It's the opposite," he said.

No Payments

Stopping payments to companies and non-governmental organizations "will basically break the entire sector right now," said Max. "That's what's driving the entire downfall." Even work done as far back as December has not been paid for, he said. Now his company is paying employees with no guarantee there will be reimbursement and weighing options in a current vacuum of information. "We are obliged to pay our employees, otherwise that would be slavery," said Max, but each day the company is advancing more money, not knowing if it will ever be repaid, on top of past work that hasn't been paid for. "Is this a 90-day review, is it not a 90-day review? How long will it take? Is it a review at all? Who will do this review if everybody is fired from USAID?" asked Max.

Personal Outlook

The uncertainty is hardest.



PHOTO BY ANONYMOUS

A sunrise captured by Greenbelters posted in Asia.

"That makes it, on a personal level, quite traumatizing," said Max, "because you cannot prepare for anything." His family had expected to stay where they are for at least another year. Their home in Greenbelt is rented. They will need to arrange a school transfer for their child and also what to do with their belongings. "Basically, day-to-day life is very, very difficult," he said. For more than two weeks everything's been up in the air, creating a situation that he described as "distressing." Further guidance is supposed to be coming and possibly exceptions for families with children in school.

Max feels confident that his company will be able to make travel arrangements and fly them home but he doesn't know what will become of their belongings: his daughter's piano that she brought from Greenbelt, bicycles, their furniture. There are things they flew there via airfreight in some 20 or so bags spread over several trips, and there are things they bought there that they were planning to bring home to Greenbelt. "We might be told next week that we can't bring anything with us, so we might just sell it," said his wife, Julie (not her real name). Yet if they don't go home they may need it. They're expecting a single flight to take them home and don't know how much they'll be able to ship, but clarity on that would bring some peace of mind so they can pack, sell things or give them away. They're expecting to hear more this week, whether they are an exception, whether they need to pack.

Future Work

Max said he tries not to be too pessimistic but on return his company will likely have to quickly pivot to other sectors, which might not be development. "We're good at what we're doing," he said, noting that project management is applicable across the board; however, "that's not our soul, I'd say." So, about the future for his company and himself he said, "I don't know, it very much depends on how the new USA could shake out." He noted that, "Many companies will certainly go down through this," though hopes his will not. Obviously, the prospects in the job market are "very bad," he conceded. "First of all, that sector is not there any more and then everybody who was in that sector is looking for a job. … and these are generally very, very good people, so you have strong competition," he said. If they need to return he may need to look for a job in another field, he believes.

Meanwhile, Julie was not permitted to work in Asia and gave up her job back home when they left. She's already reached out to people she used to work with, who are supportive and kind, she said.

A Home in Greenbelt

The way their child is handling the situation is a bright spot for Max and Julie. Though she is in elementary school there and has "tons of fun" and "tons of friends" where they are, she would be happy to come back to Greenbelt, her friends and her old school. Being able to return home to Greenbelt also brings them comfort. They have a community that is friendly and supportive to come back to and it's heartwarming, said Max.

Neighbors have offered them a room to stay in. Looking for the positive, Julie suggested it will be like a sleepover every day for her daughter if they have to implement their plan to return. "We are excited to actually go back," she said. "It's sad but also it's nice to have something to look forward to," she said, of the community they have back in Greenbelt." Max said, "There are nice people in Greenbelt. That's really something that is heartwarming with all these things that are ongoing. I'm not sure if many sorts of islands like that exist now. … Greenbelt is a nice community that sticks together." It enables them to look forward to returning home, despite the situation. Julie recounted the conversations with their daughter: "'When are we leaving? When are we leaving?' – 'We don't know' – 'When will we know?' – 'We don't know.'" "I sugarcoat things so it doesn't sound so bad," said Julie. Their daughter knows what it means to transfer, said Max, she's done it before and in fact she was born at another post. It's her birthday at the end of the month. Her mother has promised her two celebrations – one with her school friends there before they leave and one with her friends in Greenbelt when they get back.

Some Greenbelt USAID Workers Are Back on the Job, for Now

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Friday a judge issued a temporary restraining order to block the order placing USAID employees on administrative leave.

Of the three Greenbelt USAID workers reported on last week, Melissa, who had expected to lose access by Friday evening, was never placed on administrative leave due to the interceding order. At press time, she was still working, though she said a union had advised them not to expect any more paychecks.

Stephanie, who was placed on administrative leave on Tuesday, February 4, was working again and had regained access to the system this week. On Monday, several USAID employees attempted to return to work in the Reagan Building and were turned away. They were told there was a list of only about eight people who were allowed to enter, a Greenbelter told us. Some USAID workers had left their government furnished equipment (GFE) laptops inside and were unable to get back to work due to not being able to access them. Others had personal belongings still in the building, the Greenbelt USAID employee said. Employees who showed up at the building were also told USAID no longer has the lease, something the Associated Press reports the Trump administration has confirmed.

Meanwhile David, who is a personal services contractor (PSC), has been told they are supposed to be getting system access back and email accounts reinstated, but hadn't as of Tuesday. He was told he was named as someone who should have access. "When I contacted system support they were unable to reactivate my account because, '... (they) are unable to restore accounts without authorization from political leadership,'" he told the News Review. Thus, he said the message to restore access isn't being communicated or implemented by those who would restore it. "Of course this is incredibly frustrating," he said.

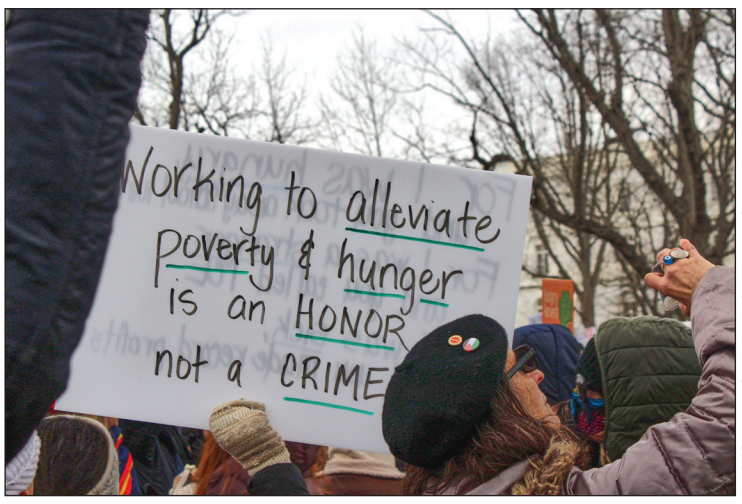


PHOTO BY A USAID EMPLOYEE AND GNR READER

USAID employees and supporters rally in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, February 5.

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BOXED: $10.90/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches ($16.35). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each $10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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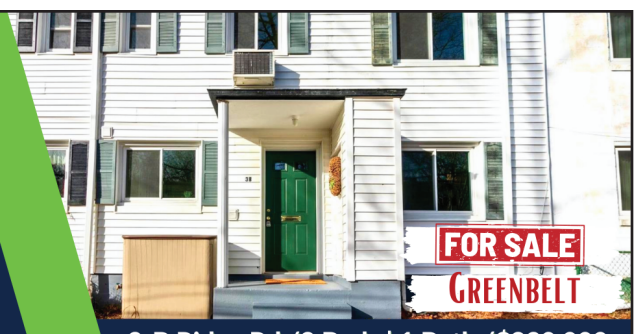
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Sports

ERHS Boys Basketball Posts Electric Winning Streak

by Patrick Gleason

Senior forward Benaiah Nwosu struck twice within minutes during a momentum-shifting third quarter for the Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders boys basketball team on Thursday, February 6. Nwosu jammed home two slam dunks after jumping in Bowie Bulldog passing lanes to help the Raiders shift the trajectory of a game they trailed after each of the first two quarters. With their 39-38 lead at the end of the third quarter, Roosevelt's hope of a seven-game winning streak solidified.

The Raiders withstood the Bulldogs' three-point display early on to remain within reach, but it wasn't until Nwosu's electricity that Roosevelt jolted past the team that defeated the Raiders by three in December amid a woeful six-game losing streak. With the 57-52 victory in hand, the Raiders' early season travails feel distant.

After controlling much of the fourth quarter, Roosevelt missed six straight free throws to provide the Bulldogs with a sliver of hope. But after a long-range miss from their archrivals, the Raiders secured a rebound to seal the game in the final 10 seconds.

Junior guard DeKare Tyler, who found himself in foul trouble much of the night, has steadied the Raider offense along with senior backcourt mate Dione Wells, as second-year coach Chaun Miller continues to steer the Raiders toward success as the regular season's finish awaits.

After earning three wins in a week, including a win over the Wise Pumas - who were previously undefeated in the county - the Raiders are poised to avenge last season's early playoff exit. A home rematch with the Pumas on Thursday, February 13 at 7 p.m. will influence playoff seeding, where the Raiders hope to maintain Nwosu's energy that catalyzed the victory over the Bulldogs.



Junior DeKare Tyler has helped the Raiders to a season-changing winning streak in recent weeks.



Senior Dione Wells has guided the Raider offense this season.

- Photos by Alphanmadou Jallow

City Notes

City Manager, MDOT and WMATA met regarding FBI headquarters planning. City Manager and Planning met with Crescent Pointe and Parkway Gardens Apartment staff about apartment heating and with the National Capital Planning Commission about the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Public Works replaced entry doors for the gyms at Springhill Lake Recreation and Youth Centers, installed two HVAC units at the Animal Shelter and repaired sidewalks outside the Community Center's east entrance and the sidewalk along the Aquatic and Fitness Center.

The Arts Program offered Black History Month events and workshops, including a Museum-curated slide show about Greenbelt's history as an exclusively white community. City Park Rangers and Public Works installed a Little Free Library at the St. Hugh's playground.

The Museum welcomed 72 visitors for a Valentine's Day open house and answered a Greenbelt Park Ranger's inquiry about local Black American and women's history.

The Senior Nutrition program has 41 registered participants.

CARES bilingual counselors and Springhill Lake Elementary School counselors initiated bi-weekly support meetings for Greenbelt's Hispanic community.



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Love Notes



Continued from page 9

Much love from E. to our carrot cultist, who fills our house with ceramic blobs and joy!

Dearest Raluca, I'm so grateful for our life and love together, and I look forward to the years to come!

Nosotros te amamos
σε αγαπάμε
Nous t'aimons
We love you in any language you choose to speak.

Happy Valentine's Day Phoebe & Stavros!

A birthday in OK
Ripped, totally
Musically gifted
Y, because we love you.

Happy Birthday &
Valentine's Day, Liam!

Dear Greenbelt Arts Center Box Office Volunteers,

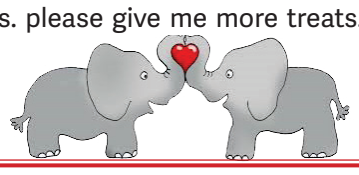
Your dedication, resourcefulness, and hard work make every event a success. You are the heart of the box office, greeting each guest with a smile and making every experience special. Thank you for your time, energy, and enthusiasm—we couldn't do it without you!

Happy Valentine's Day!

With gratitude,
Carol

BLee you've captured me,
and monopolized my heart
but I remain quite happily
until the day we must part
RR

E -
I love you more than deer skittles, kibble, and counter surfing.
- W
p.s. please give me more treats.



To my sweet wife, may our love continue to grow this Valentine's Day and every day. My life is fuller, richer and sweeter with you. All my love, Tom

EJMM, Through life we've paddled many miles together and have kept the boat afloat. Sometimes I haven't listened well and steered us into rocks. I cherish the time with you, and am inspired to be a better partner. I look forward to sharing many more miles with you.
JDBlockhead.

Snugglicious: You're a three point dunk, better than an old coupon for a five minute snuggle or a cold glass of 'ol splashy on a hot day. Love Daddy

B,
In the immortal words of Celine Dion, "I LERV you to the moon and back!"
- E

You and me
Friends to fambly
Sweet and mild
Knees and smiles
Lucky to say
I love you
Every day

Happy Valentine's Day, Anna-Lou! You're the hardest working mummy or doctor-of-books-and-stories I've ever met. I love you dearly.
- B

Liam,
Happy Valentine's Day! You are my best friend, and I love the life we have built together. Here's to many more years dancing in our kitchen.
I love you,
Ann

This just in! Local Matt loves Hannah! Greenbelt utility pole up in arms! Officials say the ravioli is tender!

To MGS from JLB
On this day of love so bright,
I think of you, my heart's delight.
With every glance, with every smile,
You make my life so full, so worthwhile.
Happy Valentine's Day!

Ciao, bella! Non vedo l'ora di vederti.

Ciao, amore! Non vedo l'ora di vederti.

In staccato or the old soft shoe
Or bangra which you've found anew
The mood you enhance
Through ecstatic dance
My thoughts, sent in late, are of you!

-Joel

Pop-Pop, thanks for being the best neighbor/dog walker/babysitter/home reno consultant/board game opponent we could ever ask for! Love you!

be mine!

We have welcomed eighteen kids into our house and introduced them to my dad jokes, a few cats, and your megalomaniacal stuffed bear. This is our love that we give to the world!

C, Thanks for all the laughter, laundry, lunches (& breakfasts & dinners) and love - F, C, and I are so lucky to have you in our lives. Here's to adding 2 more to our love this spring!
HVD <3, K

M-
One year married,
Four years together,
Feeling So High School
In both hemispheres.
Exploring two continents,
Sailing two oceans.
Where's Maria?
I don't know!
But what I do know is that
I'll love you forever.
-J

GREENBELT ARTS CENTER VOLUNTEERS
A BIG THANK YOU

To you who are on stage or behind the scenes, working on sets, lights or making the place safe. To the board members, play readers, promotors, artists, in the box office, and the many other people who make our community theater a great place.

Doesn't it seem like a mystery to
You that we should each slip so easefully,
Like paired glass marbles tumbling gleefully
About life's Rube Goldberg machine down through
Notches and channels, to nestle as two
Loves surprised by our fortune, dreamily
Catching our winking cat-eyes sneakily.
Apart before, now old, new, borrowed, blue?
Reflecting on this strange marvel it's clear
Our "genius" will or luck can't make much claim,
Lest we both foolishly think that our peer
Is that three person'd smith who set aflame
Not once but daily our stern hearts sincere.
Entering our love we to Him endear.

Happy Valentine's Day to our Greenbelt friends.
You make living here great!
Neshama and Harry